



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, **Ph:** 96447787 **E:** info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, **facebook:** [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish)

Holy Mass: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | **Holy Hour:** Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass: Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am. Or contact the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31 JANUARY 2021

Be Not Just COVID Safe, Be EVIL Safe

Sydneyiders have been hoping for more relaxation of COVID restrictions, considering two weeks of no community transmission of the virus. But the premier is more cautious of relaxing the restrictions for the fear of relapse of the dreaded spread of the virus. Anything that is adverse to the wellbeing of our brothers and sisters is to be resisted effectively. Are the virus and bacteria the worst thing that can hinder a wholesome life? With physical illness, at least there is hope of curing with medication. But there are other more nasty things that can stop life from being lived fully. Physical medications are no good for those cases.



Ongoing anger, revengeful attitude, jealousy, family feud, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, addiction to sex, and many such evils can be more destructive in life than anything else. In biblical terms they are demoniac influences. Medical systems could be clueless about any restoration of life from such evils that can make life more miserable than any pandemic could do.

Jesus from the very start of his ministry cared for the people suffering from demoniac afflictions. Every human being as the creation of God has a right to live life to the fullest. No evil power or influence should be allowed to take away the dignity and joy of living fully. With God, in the person of Jesus, with us, we need not fear any evil. The Gospel of Mark 1:21-28 is announcing this great good news. Jesus came to his home town, Capernaum. Everyone in the town knew about Jesus and of his ability to cure sick and possessed people. He did not disappoint them. As part of his ministry to them, he not only read and commented on the Holy Scripture, but also drove out evil spirits from those who were possessed.

The demons knew who Jesus is and said, "*Jesus of Nazareth*". It was like those who say, "*I went to a catholic school and I know all about the Bible and the Church.*" Is that good enough? Jesus taught in their synagogue and they were familiar with him. Even the people who were possessed by evil spirit knew that he was the Son of God. The knowledge and familiarity was not enough to ward off evil spirits. For a proper exorcism, which we all need to some extent, we need to be submitting to the Son of God. Without such a surrender, our knowledge of Jesus and his message does not produce the fruits of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus spoke from his heart, a heart that is touched by the Heavenly Father. It is a heart of love and compassion. As people of faith in Jesus, have you worked on liberating those you find possessed by demoniac afflicts? Your life of faith in Jesus gives you a kind of authority nothing else could provide. When you act in the name of Jesus, it will just be as amazing as Jesus in Capernaum. Just as then, people around you also will be saying, "*What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.*" (Ref Mark 1:27).

COVID is to be dreaded. But know that there are other evils that are more damaging in life. Therefore, be not just COVID safe, but be evil safe.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Jill Skerritt, Lydia Amores, Ben Villanueva, Edna Rahmat, Gayle Le, Clarisse Naumanen, John Rodrigues

Deceased: P A Ghisso, Yone Siew Boo, Noel Felix Gabrielle

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families

Recently Deceased: Assunta Concetta Liberatore, Norm Hutchinson

Other Intentions: For all those affected by the Corona Virus. The intention of the Holy Father.

USE QR CODE TO SIGN IN

For those who do not have a smartphone, you can still sign in using the paper form. But that will be an exception, rather than norm. **It is mandatory to wear face mask in the church.**



Please do not put the bulletin back in the church.

SUPPORT US

Scan the QR Code to make a donation.
Thank you for your generosity!



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

Dt 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

R If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

Second Reading

1 Cor 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's

affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39

Catechist Sunday

We are celebrating Catechist Sunday next weekend (6/7 February). Please feel free to speak to one of our catechists at the front of the church after the masses to pick a brochure.

~Brenda Wendt-Hussein, Catechist Co-ordinator



REFLECTIONS ON MARK 1:21-28

Historical Context – He said what?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Exorcisms

This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures, and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

Christ has called us to his kingdom and glory

From St Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Church of Smyrna

From Ignatius, known as Theophorus, to the Church of God the Father and of Jesus Christ, his beloved, at Smyrna in Asia, wishing you all joy in an immaculate spirit and the Word of God. By his mercy you have won every gift and lack none, filled as you are with faith and love, beloved of God and fruitful in sanctity.

I celebrate the glory of Jesus Christ as God, because he is responsible for your wisdom, well aware as I am of the perfection of your unshakeable faith. You are like men who have been nailed body and soul to the cross of Jesus Christ, confirmed in love by his blood.

In regard to the Lord, you firmly believe that he was of the race of David according to the flesh, but God's son by the will and power of God; truly born of the Virgin and baptized by John, that all justice might be fulfilled; truly nailed to a cross in the flesh for our sake under Pontius Pilate and the Tetrarch Herod, and of his most blessed passion we are the fruit. And thus, by his resurrection he raised up a standard over his saints and faithful ones for all time (both Jews and Gentiles alike) in the one body of his Church. For he endured all this for us, for our salvation; and he really suffered, and just as truly rose from the dead.

As for myself, I am convinced that he was united with his body even after the resurrection. When he visited Peter and his companions, he said to them: Take hold of me, touch me and see that I am not a spirit without a body. Immediately they touched him and believed, clutching at his body and his very spirit. And for this reason they despised death and conquered it. In addition, after his resurrection, the Lord ate and drank with them like a real human being, even though in spirit he was united with his Father. And so I am giving you serious instruction on these things, dearly beloved, even though I am aware that you believe them to be so.

Are you struggling financially?

If you or you know anyone needing financial assistance during this time may contact Fr Thomas. He may be able to help you. Send a confidential email to pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Church Shop

Drop by our Church Store and grab a gift for that special someone. We have a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The Church Shop is open on weekends before and after the 5.00pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am masses. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office.



FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, 2 February - The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)



Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.

Friday, 5 February - St Agatha (Memorial)



Died in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr on this day since the sixth century and included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Remembered in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

Saturday, 6 February - St Paul Miki & Companions (Memorial)



Born in Piedmont (Italy) in 1815. Died at Turin on this day in 1888. Grew up in extreme poverty and, after ordination, devoted his whole life to educating young people, especially the poor. Founded the Society of the Sacred Heart. Died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.


PARISH NOTICES

Mass Live Stream on YouTube

Vigil Mass (Saturday 5 PM) continues to be live-streamed and the mass will be available on demand thereafter on the Parish YouTube channel.

For the latest videos, please subscribe to our YouTube Channel Berala Parish and feel free to share to family and friends.





Zoom Bible Study

An introduction to Bible

2, 9, 16 February 2021

The Gospel of Mark Today

20 April to 31 August 2021 (20 weeks)

Zoom Lectures will be on Tuesdays at 7PM to 8PM.

Contact the Parish Office for Registration Forms.

PROPOSED SACRAMENT KEY DATES 2021	Reconciliation 1	Communion	Confirmation	Reconciliation 2
Commitment Mass	7 Mar 10AM Mass	9 May 10AM Mass	11 Jul 10AM Mass	10 Oct 10AM Mass
Classes (7-8PM)	10, 17, 24 Mar	12, 19, 26 May & 9 Jun	14, 21, 28 Jul & 5 Aug	13, 10, 27 Oct & 10 Nov
Celebration Dates	31 Mar at 7PM	19 Jun at 11AM	August	13 Nov at 10AM

Attendance is compulsory for each of these dates as part of the preparation process. Watch this space for more information in the following weeks!

Lenten Season 2021

It is hoped that COVID restrictions will further ease by the time for Lent this year. Accordingly, the Lenten programs are planned.

Ash Wednesday

Lent will commence with Ash ceremony on Wednesday 17 February. See the notice about the modified ceremony of Ash during this pandemic season. There will be at least four Masses on Ash Wednesday. The first one at 6.45AM and the evening one at 7.30PM. Times for the Masses during the day are yet to be finalised. It will be announced next week.

Lenten Prayer Groups

There will various Lenten groups. Already some friends groups have organised themselves to meet at one of the homes weekly to reflect and pray using the resource, 'COMFORT'. Any more groups of friends wanting to do the same are welcome to contact parish office to organise resources and any other assistance required. There could be a group meeting in the church premises on Friday evenings, subject to confirmation in a few days.

Fr Thomas will be leading a Bible reflection program on Tuesdays of the Lent. It will be based on the Scripture readings of the Lenten Sundays. Venue: St Peter Chanel Church | Time 7-8PM. You are welcome to contact parish office to join this group.

Stations of the Cross

The devotion of the Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays of Lent commencing at 7PM. No booking required for this. You can register your name on arrival at the door of the church.

Project Compassion

Last year's 'Project Compassion' appeal was disrupted by COVID restrictions. But this year we hope to hold it. The necessary envelopes and boxes will be made available soon.

Confessions/ Reconciliation

Fr Thomas will be available to hear confession Tuesdays to Saturdays after the morning Mass till Holy Week.

Lenten Fast

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and alms giving. Next week's Bulletin will have more instruction on Lenten Fast.



New Direction for Ash Wednesday

On 12 January, The Congregation for Divine Worship (Rome) has issued a directive concerning the Imposition of Ashes in this time of pandemic. Accordingly Ash Wednesday, 17 February 2021, Ash ceremony in our parish will be modified. Instead of the normal practice of daubing the ashes on the forehead, the minister with mask on, will sprinkle the ashes on the head of the faithful. That will ensure a contact free and COVID safe practice.

Fr Don Richardson, Liturgy Office Director of Sydney Archdiocese, has made the following comments.

- The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, it symbolizes that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent.
- The placing of ashes on top of the head is the more ancient practice; It is the common method in many parts of the world;
- In time of Covid-19 it has the advantage of not requiring the priest to contact the skin of many people one after another, risking inadvertent infection;
- The fact that the ashes are not readily visible to others is of no concern, since they are principally intended as a sign for the person receiving them and not for others.

Be COVID Safe

Following is an excerpt from NSW Health Department.



All religious services

- The person leading the wedding, funeral or other religious service does not need to wear a mask. This is because they need to be clearly understood by congregants.
- The congregation needs to wear masks indoors, unless exempt.
- The congregation must not exceed one person per 4 square metres of publicly accessible space.

Weddings

- During a wedding service, the person leading the service does not need to wear a mask, nor does the wedding party. This includes the wedding couple whilst they say their vows.
- If a wedding occurs in a place of worship as part of a religious service, attendees at the service need to wear a mask indoors, unless exempt.
- Up to a maximum of 300 people can attend a wedding. But our church is limited to 100 following the four square metre rule.

Funerals

- The person leading the funeral service does not need to wear a mask, nor does anybody while delivering a eulogy or similar as part of the funeral service.
- Attendees at the service need to be wearing a mask indoors, unless exempt.
- Up to a maximum of 300 people can attend a funeral. But our church is limited to 100 following the four square metre rule.

Music performances during religious services, weddings and funerals

- Where music performance is part of a service (religious, weddings or funerals), masks do not need to be worn by the performer if impractical for the performance such as wind instruments or singing.

Singing and chanting advice

- No more than 5 performers should sing indoors, with 1.5 metres between performers and 5 metres between performers and the audience.
- In indoor areas, audience members and congregants should not participate in singing or chanting.

In our Church, St Peter Chanel, as good citizens, we too shall comply with the regulations. We do it for the good of the community at large. To assist with protocols, we have five volunteers acting as COVID Marshals. The parish is grateful to Joseph Lahoud, Robert McGinn, Solomone Funaki, Charlie Scully, and William Andrews for volunteering. They will be encouraging the use of QR code to sign in as you arrive. Therefore, please remember to bring your smartphone with you. If you are not equipped to use the QR code, you can sign on the paper form at the door. Should you forget your face mask, (which can easily happen) there will be a few spare ones available at the entrance for your use. The dispenser on the wall is to help you with touch free sanitisation of your hands before Mass.

The doors of the Church will be closed at the start of the Mass so that the Marshals can also join the congregation to celebrate Mass. The unattended doorway would risk people wandering in without complying with the protocols. We shall all consider the care for each other as our Christian charity and do it seriously.



Project Compassion Virtual Immersions



Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to lent.caritas.org.au.

7 FEBRUARY 2021		5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Maris MARSH	Joshua LU
	Mai NGUYEN	Michael CHOW	Hilary RIOFRIO
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY	Jenny MICHAEL	Margaret THAM
Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family	Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anita Yip; Catherine Naidu-Narayan; Francis Lynett		
Saturday 8AM		6 FEBRUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Jann ROCKLIFF	